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Evan T. Jones (ed.), ‘The suit to obtain the position of customer inwards at Bristol for John Dowle, May 1593’ (University of Bristol, ROSE, 2011)¹

Letter: Mayor of Bristol et al. to Cecil Burghley, Lord Treasurer, 3 May 1593²

To the right honorable our
very good Lorde, the lorde highe
Treasurer of Englande

[Docketed]³
3 May 1593

Maior of Bristoll
Mr Kytchin Aldermen⁴
Mr Browne

Recommend Dowle to be a
fitt man for the executing
of the Customers place Inwardes
uppon the resignacion of
Hulbert ./

Oure humble dutyes unto your honor remembered, Where
William Hulberte Gent, one of the Customers of this Porte
ys mynded (as we are informed) to resigne his offyce unto *John Dowle*
this berer; yf yt may stande *with your Lordships* pleasure, we doe
presume uppon his iuste⁵ deserte to comende him unto *your*
honorable favor as a man fytt for the servyce of her majestye
in that place. And thus desiring of the Allmightye
the contynuance of *your good Lordships* healthe withe increase of
honour, we doe humbly take oure leave / Bristoll the
3 of May 1593

Your honours moste humble
at commandement

[signed]

Thomas Aldworth Mayor⁶
John Browne Aldermayn⁷
Robart Kitchen Alderman⁸

¹ The following conventions were employed when transcribing these documents: the line spacing, spelling, capitalization, punctuation and underlining follow the manuscript; reconstructions of suspensions are in italics, editorial comments are in squared brackets. I would like to thank Margaret Condon (University of Bristol) for her advice on the transcription and James Ross (TNA) for supplying photographs of the documents.

² The National Archives: Public Record Office [TNA:PRO], SP12/245/9(i), fo. 18.

³ The address and docket of both letters are on the verso. The docket would have been added by one of Cecil's secretaries.

⁴ Bristol had twelve aldermen, who formed the inner cabinet of the city's council.

⁵ iuste: just.

⁶ Thomas Aldworth (d. 1599) was a significant Bristol merchant, who had been a member of the Merchant Venturers in the 1560s: P. V. McGrath, *The Merchant Venturers of Bristol* (Bristol, 1975), pp. 18 n.23, 21. He had served as mayor in 1582/3: L. Toumlin Smith (ed.), *The Maire of Bristowe is Kalendar by Robert Ricart* (Camden Society, V, 1872) [hereafter *Ricart's Kalendar*], p. 61.

⁷ John Browne, (d. 1595), was another Bristol merchant who had also been a Merchant Venturer of the city in the 1560s: McGrath, *Merchant Venturers*, pp. 18 n.23, 21. He was mayor in 1572/3: *Ricart's Kalendar*, p. 58.

*Letter: William Hubberte to Cecil Burghley, Lord Treasurer, 16 May 1593*⁹

To the Right honourable
The Lord highe Tresurour
of England /

[Docketed]
16 May 1593

William Hulbert Customer of *your*
Port of Bristoll inwards¹⁰

He is desyrous in respect of his
infirmity to resigne his place
to one John Dowle his Kinsman
who is certified by the maior¹¹ and
others of Bristoll to be sufficient
to discharge the same
wherein he prayes *your lordshippes* favour.

Right honourable, whereas about tenne yeares past by *your* lordships
favour¹² I enioyed the Customers place inwards in her *Majesties* port of ~
Bristoll, & yeat contynewe the same: And nowe (by some infirmytie)
fynding my self unhable to *performe* that service as therein is requisite,
Ame willing *with your* honourable favour to resigne the same to John Dowle
gent, my nere kynsman, a man of honest reputacion & creditt & fytt
for the place, as by testimony of *letres* unto *your* honour from the mayor
& some of the Aldermen of the same Citie may appeare / And ~
for *your* good *Lordships* favour herein I am willing to yealde (wheare *your*
honour shall please to dispose) C Aungelles,¹³ and will daile pray
(as my bounden dutye is) for *your Lordships* good healthe with increase of
honour longe to continue /

Your honours most humble
at commaundemente

Wylliam Hulberte

⁸ Robert Kitchen (d. 1594), was a merchant and former mayor (1588) of Bristol: *Ricart's Kalendar*, p. 63; J. Vanes (ed.), *Documents Illustrating the Overseas Trade of Bristol* (Bristol Record Society Publications, XXI 1979), pp. 140, 145, 147, 148.

⁹ TNA:PRO, SP12/245/9, fo. 17. The underlining on this letter was presumably added by the Lord Treasurer or one of his secretaries.

¹⁰ The 'customer inwards' was responsible for collecting / recording duties on all inbound overseas trade.

¹¹ 'maior': mayor.

¹² The Lord Treasurer was responsible, on behalf of the Crown, for the appointment of senior customs officers, who received their posts under letters patent.

¹³ 'C Aungelles': 100 angels. An angel was a coin worth 10s. Hulberte was thus offering Burghley £50 to confirm the appointment of Dowle.